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Moldova: political oppression against civil society and key witnesses

Written declaration No. 623

This written declaration does not reflect the position of the Assembly; only of those members that have signed it. It will not be considered further by the Assembly.

One of the priorities of the EU-Moldova Association Agreement is Moldovan authorities' transparency in the implementation of anticorruption reform and protection of human rights, freedoms and the rule of law to restore the confidence of Moldova's citizens and international partners.

Unfortunately, since 2014, the government has made attempts to silence the opposition and civil society, whose representatives, such as Ana Ursachi, Eduard Rudenco, Grigore Petrenco have become victims of defamatory campaigns and criminal cases, led by Moldovan prosecutor's offices and media outlets, influenced and politicised by oligarch Vlad Plahotniuc. Representatives of StarNet Telecom and its owner Alexandru Machedon, who refused to censor independent media JurnalTV, faced similar reprisals.

Politically motivated trials were initiated against Vyacheslav Platon-Kobalyev, a key witness in the case against Plahotniuc on charges of embezzlement of $1 billion from reserves of the Moldova's National Bank; or Sergiu Cibotari, an ex-employee of the Post of Moldova and a key witness in a criminal case against Plahotniuc's allies.

We hereby call on the Moldovan authorities to immediately stop the reprisals, and remind that human rights and democracy situation in Moldova is closely monitored by the Council of Europe.

Signed (see overleaf)

Signed[1]*:*

SCHENNACH Stefan, Austria, SOC
AEG Raivo, Estonia, EPP/CD
ALBAKKAR Khaled, Jordan
CHRISTODOULOPOULOU Anastasia, Greece, UEL
HUNKO Andrej, Germany, UEL
KAVVADIA Ioanneta, Greece, UEL
KERESTECİOĞLU DEMİR Filiz, Turkey, UEL
KLEINBERGA Nellija, Latvia, ALDE
KOX Tiny, Netherlands, UEL
KÜRKÇÜ Ertuğrul, Turkey, UEL
LOUCAIDES George, Cyprus, UEL
LUNDGREN Kerstin, Sweden, ALDE
NICOLETTI Michele, Italy, SOC
OBREMSKI Jarosław, Poland, EC
OMTZIGT Pieter, Netherlands, EPP/CD
ÖZSOY Hişyar, Turkey, UEL
RAWERT Mechthild, Germany, SOC
SCHWABE Frank, Germany, SOC
VILLUMSEN Nikolaj, Denmark, UEL
WILSON Phil, United Kingdom, SOC
WOJTYŁA Andrzej, Poland, EC
ZELIENKOVÁ Kristýna, Czech Republic, ALDE
ZINGERIS Emanuelis, Lithuania, EPP/CD

Total = 23

1. ALDE: Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe
EC: European Conservatives Group
EPP/CD: Group of the European People's Party
SOC: Socialist Group
UEL: Group of the Unified European Left